

U.S. Department of Justice

***United States Attorney
Eastern District of Virginia***

*World Trade Center 757/441-6331
Suite 8000, 101 West Main Street
Norfolk, VA 23510*

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
THURSDAY, OCTOBER 23 , 2003

For Further Information Contact:
Deanna Warren 757-441-6331

Norfolk/Newport News, Virginia – Paul J. McNulty, United States Attorney for the Eastern District of Virginia, announced today the arrest of James Labar Overton, 25 years old, of Hampton, Virginia. Overton is currently charged in a criminal complaint filed in U.S. District Court on October 17, 2003, with conspiracy to distribute crack cocaine, possession with intent to distribute crack cocaine, and conspiracy to commit money laundering.

At the conclusion of an eight-month investigation, authorities from the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, and the Hampton Police Division executed search warrants at four Hampton locations, and arrested Overton at his residence in Hampton on October 21, 2003.

Federal authorities seized approximately \$8,500 in cash, \$14,000 worth of diamond jewelry, and a 1997 Cadillac as part of the sweep. The investigation exposed an estimated \$4.5 million cocaine distribution ring operating since 1999 in Hampton and Newport News. Two firearms recovered in this case are linked to two separate shootings still under investigation in Hampton, one in March of 2000, and the other in March of 2003.

Assistant United States Attorney Sherrie S. Capotosto is prosecuting the case.

###